Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
2/27/74

Mr. Ben A. Franklin,
New York Times
1920 L St., NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Franklin,

Panorama asked me to appear with Jones Harris today. Until they did I had no reason to do any checking on the documents called to your attention and basic to your Sunday piece. As I'd told you Monday, it all sounded familiar and angled.

As soon as I collected enough to be definitive I phoned you yesterday so you'd know prior to the broadcast today.

I do not have all the documents. If you have any interest you can have copies of these and I can tell you how to get a few others that can't make any difference to the story but perhaps can indicate more on the suspicion of the imposter. (In my files the reality of the counterfeiting is overwhelming and it was well known to FBI and Commission members and staff.)

These documents <u>were</u> in the Commission's files, were <u>never</u> suppressed, were <u>never</u> secret, and the one that had been classified (Confidential) was declassified before the Archive was in use. The declassification is stamped on it.

Moreover, in his own letter giving the Commission a list of each and every document in his Oswald file, Hooger downplayed the one Harris interested you in by omitting that entirely from the innocuous description he gave of it.

I cannot, of course, certify that there are no omissions in Hoover's letter, which I have. And I do not for a minute suggest that the Commission's having this letter excuses its refusal to examine the files itself. I go into this in detail in Oswald in New Orleans, which was completed in early April 1967,

But I do suggest that there was never at any time any internal secrecy about this matter or Hoover's words. And I do believe that the handling of it was deliberate suppression all around. By this I mean not only by the Commission and the FBI. All agencies had to know about it. ONI received copies, for example. (Interestingly, no indication CIA did.)

I write in the early a.m. to inform you because I'll have to come right home after the show. The decision in the Ray evidentiary hearing is due today. I'm his investigator and I know there will be calls. Mo Waldron has told me he'll call. (He also sees a timing coincidence between Harris' approach to the Times and the campaign against the memory of the late sainted Hoover.) And if you don't know it, for a long time Harris pretended to be a Kennedy man while he was a staunch Nixonian.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg